AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for diagnosing ulcerative colitis ~~differentiating between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease~~ by testing a fecal sample for an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with inflammatory bowel disease; ~~and~~

determining whether there is an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the sample[[.]]; and ~~wherein an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies is an indicator of ulcerative colitis.~~

diagnosing the person with anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies present in the fecal sample with ulcerative colitis.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

diluting the fecal sample.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising:

contacting the fecal sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin to create a readable sample.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm, wherein the optical density corresponds to a level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the sample.

11. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic assay for differentiating between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease by determining whether a fecal sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutophil cytoplasmic antibodies , the assay comprising:

obtaining a human fecal sample from a person presenting with inflammatory bowel disease;

diluting the fecal sample;

contacting the diluted sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample;

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin to create a readable sample;

determining the optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm;

determining whether the optical density indicates an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, where an elevated level of anti-neutophil cytoplasmic antibodies is an indicator of ulcerative colitis.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic assay as recited in claim 12, wherein the anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are one of IgG, IgE, IgM, IgD, $IgA_{sec,}$ IgA, and combinations thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic assay as recited in claim 11, wherein the assay is selected from a group consisting of an enzyme-linked immunoassay and a lateral flow membrane test.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method for screening for ulcerative colitis in persons presenting with inflammatory bowel disease, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with inflammatory bowel disease;

determining whether anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are present in the sample; and

diagnosing ulcerative colitis if anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are present in the sample.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, differentiating between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

diluting the sample.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

contacting the diluted sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin to create a readable sample.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 23, further comprising: determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm, wherein the optical density corresponds to a level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the sample.

25. (Canceled)